

Allin, C D

Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota

Feb. - April 1917

(05)

February 14th, 1917

Professor C. D. Allin,
Department of Political Science,
University of Minnesota.

Dear Professor Allin:

I have read with very much interest your article on the "Hogan Case." From the point of view of sentiment one would have preferred that you could have seen your way to supporting the judgment of the American Court, but it is a matter of interpretation of facts I assume. I was particularly interested in what you said at the end of the article as to the disorder in which the laws of neutrals are found in the United States. I think I shall be even more interested in your forthcoming article on the "Belligerent Interference with Mails", though both of these articles will soon deal with matters that are more of historic interest in view of what seems to me to be the probability that you will be before long forced into war.

I am glad to have your opinion with regard to conditions in the Middle West of the United States. Nothing has delighted me more for a long time than the dismissal of von Bernstorff. I was viewing with great apprehension the possibility of estrangement between the United States and Canada, and also of the submergence of our common Anglo-Saxon ideals. I hope now that is past, and that in the future we shall be drawn more closely together in the maintenance of common standards of life.

In Toronto we have of course lost heavily. I have just had a card for national service filled out by the students and find that there is a great reduction in the number of men. I should think that in University College there are not more than 75 men in good health who have not offered for active service. In Medicine there are more. In Applied Science there are more, but where we had nearly 800 in Applied Science we have under 200 men. The present immediate necessity, however, is due to the coal situation. We have found it necessary to-day to close the buildings because we have not sufficient coal to carry on. I understand that the same situation is found in Buffalo and New York State. We are all hoping that the weather may moderate soon.

As to what practical work you could do in the way of war employment I am very doubtful. To-day a committee of our own men is to meet to consider this very question. Should anything practical arise out of it I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature and the Arts
Minneapolis

Apr. 6th 1917.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly send me at once a statement of the measures which have been taken at the University of Toronto to prepare the faculty and students for war. The Senate of Minnesota is to meet next week to deal with the question and there is a state of general ignorance as to what can be done to best advantage. We have already organized an Officers Training Corps and have 10 men from the regular army furnishing instruction. As the student body all take military drill the men are in fair shape for an emergency.

It has taken the middle west a long time to realize what has been at stake in Europe. This part of the country has been hopelessly provincial in its outlook and has been strongly pro-German in its sympathies in many quarters. But in the last two months there has been a decided change in sentiment. The German-British Paupish consideration has been rapidly dissolving and I am now convinced that the great majority of the country will rally to the support of the government in the vigorous conduct of the war. But it will be useless to expect material results in the near future. The United States will be drawn into the struggle in Europe by degrees only, but now that it is in it will fight to win. We hope to keep the most of our work going at the University, but there is no

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doubt but that it will be seriously interrupted. The student body is taking the matter seriously and will prove worthy of the occasion. The German-Americans among them will do their duty but with few exceptions.

I am sending you by to-day's mail a copy of a recent article on "Religions Interference with Mail" which may be of some interest to you. The subject is one upon which there has been considerable confusion of thought and I have deemed it advisable to present the case to the American public in its true legal character.

If there is anything I can do at Toronto help out in the present emergency please let me know for I shall be glad to come home. If not I shall throw myself into the work of helping in our preparations here where there is an unusual amount of work to be done.

Sincerely yours.

Wm. D. Allen

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April 26, 1917

Professor C. D. Allin,
University of Minnesota.

Dear Professor Allin:

I am sending you copies of my last two annual reports in which you will get an outline of the work done by the University in connection with the war. I am also sending a copy of our last "Varsity" special which will add some further information.

It is difficult for me to know specifically what kind of information you wish. First with regard to enlistment and training a group of our men on the staff began in August, 1914 to prepare themselves to take charge of the Officers' Training Corps among the students. At the opening of the session they were fairly well prepared for their work and students joined at once in great numbers. We soon had 1500 men enrolled and for two or three months they drilled without arms and without uniforms. We stopped all work at four o'clock in the afternoon. To those who took the military work and passed their examinations in the spring we gave credit for one ordinary subject of their course. To all undergraduates in Arts who enlisted for overseas service we gave a full year, so that they might get their B.A. in three years instead of four. In the Faculties of Medicine and Applied Science we have required attendance in two of the three trimesters and a favourable report as to the work from the staff.

I am sure that if you will write to Colonel LeFan of the

Provisional School of Infantry, Second Division, Toronto, who is a member of our staff, or to Major Needler or Captain M. W. Wallace of University College, who are in charge of our Overseas Officers' Training Company they will give you full details as to the military situation.

You speak of there being something that you might do in Toronto at the present time. I am afraid that there is nothing, and I say so with some regret, because a large number of our men who are willing to do anything they can have not been given the opportunity. Just at present the Militia Department is not pushing matters at all, and the Provincial Committee though active is giving all its attention to food production. I should think that in the United States you would find a larger opening just now, and if we can help you by sending you any information we shall be only too glad to do so. Now that the States is in with us as allies I suppose you will feel more at home.

I shall look forward to reading your second article on "belligerent interference with the mails," though now it will have chiefly historic interest. What you say about the condition in Minnesota is quite enlightening.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

